

Emergency Response News



November 2002

IDEM and Tipton Wastewater Treatment Plant address contamination in Tipton County waterway

The Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) and the wastewater treatment plant in Tipton responded to a spill of process water that entered Tobin Ditch, a tributary of Cicero Creek in Tipton County.

On August 8, an IDEM On-Scene Coordinator received a call from the superintendent at the wastewater treatment plant about a white substance appearing in Tobin Ditch. He indicated the white substance appeared to start at an industrial facility and could possibly be related to wash water from its cement trucks. Staff conducted field sampling of the effected waterway and determined the suspected facility was the source/responsible party.

IDEM staff met with the responsible party's facility manager and required the facility to conduct a spill response. The company was directed to erect earthen containment dams in Tobin Ditch and treat the impacted water. Staff tested the corrosiveness in the water to delineate the extent of the contamination.

The facility's staff conducted spill response activities. Approximately 60,000 gallons of impacted water was pumped from the effected waterway into the sanitary sewer collection system. The wastewater treatment plant agreed to accept the water in controlled volumes and monitor corrosive levels during intake. The affected waterway was flushed with well water and this water also was contained and treated at the wastewater treatment plant. Hay bails were deployed in the ditch to filter the sediment. Impacted sediment in the ditch was excavated and transported to a stone quarry for reuse.

IDEM collected and submitted water samples to the Indiana State Department of Health laboratory, which confirmed field-monitoring results.

IDEM provided oversight of the spill response activities and monitored the remediation of the site, which was completed to the agency's satisfaction in November.



Incident Snapshot

IDEM action:

Provided oversight of spill response activities and monitored the remediation of contaminated surface water and sediment at the site.

Location:

Tobin Ditch, a tributary of Cicero Creek in Tipton, Tipton County

Primary substance of concern:

Elevated corrosive levels in process water.

Environmental threat:

Elevated corrosive levels are toxic to aquatic life

For further information about IDEM's emergency response action at this site, contact staff at the following phone numbers or at IDEM's toll-free phone number, (800) 451-6027:

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